

Message Text

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46

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 L-03 DODE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /057 W

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R 141300Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5145

UNCLAS CAIRO 6913

FROM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA PORT CONGESTION

REF CAIRO 5548 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN POST MORTEM ON RECENT EFFORTS TO CLEAR ALEXANDRIA DOCKS AND REDUCE PORT CONGESTION (REFTEL) ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL HAS JUST CONCLUDED LONG INQUIRY SEEKING TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVIOUS CONGESTION AND OR PROPOSE MEASURES TO PREVENT RECURRENCE. DEMURRAGE PAYMENTS TO WAITING SHIPS HAVE BEEN COSTING GOE "TENS OF MILLIONS" OF POUNDS IN HARD CURRENCIES.

2. ONE BASIC CAUSE OF JAM-PACKED DOCKS AND OVERFLOWING WAREHOUSES IN PORT AREA WAS FOUND TO BE EXTREMELY LOW STORAGE FEES IMPOSED BY PORT AUTHORITY WHICH MAKE STORAGE AT PORT FAR CHEAPER THAN IN PRIVATE FACILITIES IN AND AROUND ALEXANDRIA.

3. ANOTHER IMPORTANT CAUSE WAS FOUND IN FREQUENT FAILURE BY CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION TO NOTIFY IMPORTERS OF ARRIVAL OF GOODS. ALSO PUBLIC SECTOR (GOVERNMENT) AGENCIES WHICH UNTIL RECENTLY HELD MONOPOLIES FOR CERTAIN IMPORTS WERE OFTEN LATE IN ASKING MERCHANTS TO PICK UP MERCHANDISE.

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4. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, A NEW LAW HAS BEEN
PROMULGATED "IMPOSING SEVERE PENALTIES ON THOSE WHO FOR
ONE REASON OR ANOTHER CONTRIBUTE TO CONGESTION OF DOCKS".

5. ONE UNHAPPY SIDE EFFECT OF RECENT CRASH PROGRAM TO CLEAR
DOCKS HAS ARISEN FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION TO PERMIT
PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS TO REMOVE GOODS IMMEDIATELY UPON
ARRIVAL AND THEN TAKE CARE OF CUSTOMS PAPERWORK AND PAYMENTS.
RESULT HAS BEEN THAT OVER 100 MILLION POUNDS OF IMPORT DUTIES
IS NOW OWED TO CUSTOMS AND HAS YET TO BE PAID.SIGNED CHASE.
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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